

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the presently pending claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method comprising steps of:
  - (a) positioning a data surface adjacent a head mounted onto an actuator; and
  - (b) determining an accessible track range for the surface partly based on several lateral positions sensed while urging the actuator laterally against a stop at a common actuator position.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the positioning step (a) includes steps of:
  - (a1) simultaneously writing a co-rotatable stack of several discs in a multi-disc writer; and
  - (a2) removing a selected one of the several discs from the co-rotating stack, the selected disc including the data surface.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the positioning step (a) includes a step (a1) of mounting a disc that includes the data surface onto a spindle assembly, the data surface containing a prewritten servo pattern (PSP).
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the positioning step (a) includes a step (a1) of positioning the actuator and the head relative to the data surface so that system tracks on the surface are written with a head/track skew of about 0°.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 in which the determining step (b) includes a step (b1) of reading from a lowest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access.

6.(Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 in which the determining step (b) further includes a step ~~(b1)~~ (b2) of designating a guardband that includes the lowest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access, the guardband being adjacent to one side of the track range for the surface.

7.(Original) The method of claim 1 in which the determining step (b) includes a step (b1) of designating a track range limit that is based on the several lateral positions and on a predetermined design margin wider than one track, the margin derived from a known mechanical tolerance.

8.(Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step (c) of deriving another surface's track range partly based on the several lateral positions sensed in the determining step (b).

9.(Original) The method of claim 1 in which the determining step (b) includes a step (b1) of biasing an arm of the actuator against the stop.

10.(Previously Presented) A method comprising a step (a) of urging an actuator against a stop while identifying each of several tracks at a common actuator position using a head supported by the actuator.

11.(Original) The method of claim 10 in which the urging step (a) includes a step (a1) of reading from a highest-numbered track that the stop permits the head to access fully.

12.(Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step (b) of selecting a most extreme one of the track identifications from the urging step (a).

13.(Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step (b) of using the track identifications from the urging step (a) to estimate an offset between a center of the several tracks and a center of rotation of the several tracks.

14.(Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising a step (b) of determining a nominal track range limit partly based on the track identifications from the urging step (a).

15.(Original) The method of claim 10 in which the positioning step (a) includes a step (a1) of mounting a disc that onto a spindle assembly, the disc containing a prewritten servo pattern (PSP) including the several tracks.

16.(Original) The method of claim 10 in which the positioning step (a) includes steps of:

- (a1) rigidly supporting the stop with a base; and
- (a2) rotatably mounting the actuator and a disc containing the tracks onto the base.

17.(Original) The method of claim 10, further including a prior step of designating a system track band that includes a block of several annular system tracks and at least one guardband track on each side of the block.

18.(Original) The method of claim 10, further including a prior step of designating a system track band that includes a block of several annular system tracks at a position where a head/track skew is about 0°.

19-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A method comprising:

- (a) positioning a data surface adjacent a head mounted onto an actuator;
- (b) sensing several lateral track identifiers while urging the actuator laterally against a stop at a fixed, common actuator position; and
- (c) determining an accessible track range for the surface partly based on the several lateral track identifiers.